

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, October 6, 2006

MPDC KICKS OFF 2007 RECRUITING SEASON WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPO ON OCTOBER 14

With the goal of hiring several hundred new officers over the next 12 months, the MPDC kicks off its fiscal year 2007 recruiting season on October 14 with a day-long “Law Enforcement Expo” outside Police Headquarters in Northwest. Recruiters will be on hand to discuss the range of career opportunities in the MPDC for both entry-level candidates and experienced officers from other agencies who are interested in joining the Department through its lateral-hire program. Interested applicants can complete application forms and take the written police test on-site at the Expo. The Law Enforcement Expo also is designed to give prospective officers an inside look at the MPDC. Representatives from many of the Department’s patrol and specialized enforcement units will be on hand to demonstrate their latest equipment, training and techniques through displays that will be set up on Indiana Avenue, NW. With the new fiscal year, which began October 1, the MPDC’s authorized strength has increased from 3,800 to 3,900 sworn members. To boost its ranks and keep up with normal attrition, the Department is looking to hire several hundred officers. In addition to offering exciting opportunities to police in the nation’s capital, the MPDC provides a competitive starting salary of \$46,395 a year; after 18 months, officers earn \$50,761. By contrast, the entry-level salary in the New York City Police Department is \$25,100.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9860/year/2006>
- ① More information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC, including the requirements for becoming a police officer, can be found at:
<http://www.mpdc.gov/join>
- ① Visitors to the Expo can also learn about civilian career opportunities in the MPDC. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH HONORS SURVIVORS, SERVICE PROVIDERS

For the past two decades, the month of October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the US, a time to raise community awareness of the seriousness of the problem. This month, the Metropolitan Police Department is participating in two events intended to honor the survivors of domestic violence in DC, as well as the service providers and advocates who support them. The first event is a Domestic Violence Summit that will take place on Saturday, October 21, from 10 am until 3 pm, at Patterson Elementary School, 4399 South Capitol Terrace, SW. Organized by the Seventh District and the MPDC’s Victim Services Unit, the Summit will bring together representatives from law enforcement, victim services and the community at large to address barriers in domestic violence situations. The second event is an “Honoring the Survivors” ceremony on Thursday, October 26, from 12 noon until 3 pm, at THE ARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE. Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. To address the problem locally, the MPDC created the Domestic Violence Unit to serve as a liaison among police, the US Attorney’s Office, other law enforcement agencies, victim service agencies and advocates, and the community. In addition to conducting community outreach and education, the unit helps to supervise Domestic Violence investigators assigned to each of the seven police districts and officers who work in DC’s Domestic Violence Intake Centers.

- ① For more information, contact Lt. Michelle Robinson, (202) 727-7137, or visit:
www.mpdc.dc.gov/domesticviolence
- ① For a list of domestic violence resources in DC, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,541124.asp>

CHIEF RAMSEY PROVIDES UPDATE ON CCTV CAMERAS

In testimony this past week before the DC Council's Judiciary Committee, Chief Ramsey provided further details on the MPDC's implementation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to help combat crime in DC neighborhoods. The use of neighborhood CCTV cameras was authorized by the Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006, which expires on October 19. The Council is considering legislation that would extend the use of CCTV cameras in neighborhood settings. The Chief reported that all 48 planned CCTV cameras have been installed and are operational in locations spanning all seven police districts. Ramsey said that video from the cameras has been pulled in about a dozen cases, and that while no cases have been solved as a result of the cameras, they have provided possible evidence in a few instances. The Chief reminded the Committee that CCTV can be useful not only for solving, but also preventing, crime. He reported that preliminary data show violent crime in areas monitored by the first set of cameras installed in August has decreased 73 percent when compared with the same time period last year. The Chief also provided additional details on a survey of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners representing some of the areas with cameras. Ninety-two percent stated they felt "a lot safer" or "a little safer" with a camera in their single member district. A similar percentage "strongly agreed" or "somewhat agreed" with the statement that CCTV cameras will help prevent crime in the District of Columbia. All but one Commissioner stated that they had heard positive feedback from the community about the cameras.

REPORTED CRIME PLUNGES 19 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

For the second month in a row, serious crime in DC plunged 19 percent during September, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Comparing last month with September 2005, there were reductions in seven of the eight "Index" crime categories; only arson offenses rose from one a year ago to three last month. Most of the other crime categories recorded double-digit reductions, including declines of 36 percent in sexual assaults, 35 percent in stolen autos and 34 percent in robberies. Homicides fell 28 percent last month, and are running about 8 percent below 2005's level. Last year, DC recorded fewer homicides (196) than in any year since 1986 (194). Year-to-date, crime is down by about 2 percent citywide, preliminary data show, with reductions in thefts and stolen autos and only slight increases in several other crime categories. Prior to the enactment of the crime emergency in early July, crime in DC was running about 4 percent above last year. According to preliminary statistics, reported crime was down in all seven police districts during September, with the Fourth and Sixth districts recording the largest decreases (24% each). Most of the other districts also recorded double-digit reductions last month.

NEWS & NOTES

New Officers Hit the Streets. Twenty-nine newly sworn officers are joining neighborhood patrols in DC following graduation ceremonies Friday afternoon. The new officers, most of them members of Recruit Class 2006-1, are being assigned to PSA patrols across the city. In addition, four members of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department completed the recruit training and are now certified as arson investigators.

DC Receives Victim Services Grant. The US Justice Department has awarded DC's Office of Victim Services (OVS) a three-year, nearly \$195,000 grant to develop a District Crime Victim Assistance Academy. The Academy will be a five-day, university-level program developed by and for District professionals from the fields of victim services, academia, law enforcement and the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its purpose will be to educate participants about the rights, needs and concerns of homicide, robbery, sexual assault and other victims. Read more at <http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=982>.

① Read the Chief's complete statement at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx?agency=mpdc/section/4/release/9835>

① Read more about the initial impact of CCTV, as well as other elements of the crime emergency, at:
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx?agency=mpdc§ion=4&release=9745&year=2006&file=file.aspx%2frelease%2f9745%2fCrime%2520Emergency%2520Impact.pdf>

① Get detailed information on the MPDC's use of CCTV at:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/cctv>

① View the latest preliminary crime statistics – for each police district and the city as a whole – by going to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543329.asp>

① The MPDC posts a variety of crime statistics online, including daily and weekly updates on the crime emergency. Details at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/06/06
■ 2006: 136	
■ 2005: 147	
■ % Change: -7.5%	
■ Closure Rate: 55.1% (75 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 9/30/06
■ Total: 1,073	
■ Weapons: 26	
■ Robbery: 4	
■ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 23	
■ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 58	
■ Narcotics: 155	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 9/30/06
■ Total Arrests: 50	
■ Robbery: 2	
■ Weapons: 0	
■ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3	
■ Curfew Violators: 205	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/04/06
■ October: 85	
■ September: 216	
■ 2006 Total: 1,927	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/06/06
■ 2006: 33	
■ 2005: 37	
■ % Change: -10.8%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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